smallscale sector and exports in its credit policy for 2002-03. It also aims at facilitating better credit delivery and moving forward with structural reforms.

- The RBI has cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 5 per cent from 5.5 per cent, a move that is likely to release Rs. 5000 crores to banks for lending. This move will ease the liquidity position further.

- Power sector reforms have received a boost in pursuance of the centre's decision to provide grants equal to the amount by which States have been able to reduce their power sector deficits. The States of Haryana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been able to reduce losses in the past couple of years. These three States will now be eligible for matching grant under the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP).

- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in the Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.

- The Union Budget 2002-03 has made allocations towards some of the major schemes, which will boost demand especially in construction, housing, steel, and cement sectors. These schemes include PM's Gram Sadak Yojana, Infrastructure Equity Fund, Urban Reform Incentive Fund, City Challenge Fund, and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme.

- DIPP has entrusted sector-wise studies in respect of capital goods, pulp and paper and cement industries to organisations of international repute with a view to assess global competitiveness of these industries.

Export growth during 2001

2095. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as compared to most Asian countries, except China, India is the only one to record a positive growth in export;

(b) if so, what was the total export growth recorded during 2001;

(c) whether other major economies recorded a negative growth in exports; and

(d) if so, what efforts are being made to improve the export growth further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, as compared to most Asian countries, except China, India is the only one to record a positive growth in export during 2001, as per the WTO Annual Report, 2002. Exports of India's merchandise goods have registered a growth of 4% in 2001 whereas Asia as a whole registered a negative growth rate (-) 9%. The major economies of North America, Japan and EU also witnessed deterioration in export performance at (-) 6% (-) 16% & (-) 1% respectively during 2001.

(d) Based on the Medium Term Export Strategy announced by the Department of Commerce and the action plans prepared by the various Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards, specific product and market related strategies are implemented. In the Exim Policy 2002—07, a number of measures have been announced to promote exports which include additional features for Special Economic Zones, a scheme to reimburse certain admissible expenses for export of certain agricultural products, development of clusters to help small scale exports, additional support for electronic hardware exports, further reduction in transaction costs, etc.

FDI in IT Sector

2096. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has not been able to attract FDI in IT and Telecommunications since 1991 as compared to other South Asian Countries;